

Message Text

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ACTION SWF-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 IO-04 AGR-05 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-04

OMB-01 TRSE-00 OIC-02 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-08 NEA-06

RSC-01 COME-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-01 H-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 FEAE-00

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P R 241544Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6566

INFOR AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, AORG, US, FAO, NI

SUBJ: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: (A) STATE 136529 AND PREVIOUS

(B) LAGOS 7476

1. EMBASSY'S INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH FMG ON WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE HAVE NOT, THUS FAR, PRODUCED BOUNTIFUL HARVEST OF VIEWS FROM NIGERIAN SIDE. MORE-THAN-USUALLY CAUTIOUS RESPONSE ON THIS ISSUE MAY INDICATE INTENTION ON PART OF FMG TO BE GUIDED BY LDC PARTY LINE.

2. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH AGATT, MINAG OFFICIALS CONVEY SINCERE DESIRE FOR SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE. IN THIS REGARD THEY CLAIM NIGERIA WILL BE GOING TO CONFERENCE WITH OPEN-MINDED ATTITUDE AND HOPE OTHER PARTICIPANTS WILL DO SAME.

COMMENT: IT IS EVIDENT THAT OIL-RICH NIGERIA IS LESS CONCERNED THAN ITS POORER LDC COLLEAGUES OVER SUCH STICKY ISSUES
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AS TRADE CONCESSION FOR LDCS; BUT IT WILL PROBABLY FEEL OBLIGED

TO SUPPORT THEIR EFFORTS.

3. ON WORLD FOOD RESERVES, THE ABOVE NOTWITHSTANDING, WE DETECT RESISTANCE ON PART OF TOP MINAG OFFICIALS TOWARD CONCEPT OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS IN ANY FORM. DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE (OLORUNTOBA), FOR EXAMPLE, IS SKEPTICAL ABOUT PROPOSED WORLD FOOD AUTHORITY AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND DISCUSSED IN THIRD PREPCOM, AND INDICATES NIGERIA CAN BE EXPECTED TO ASK MANY HARD QUESTIONS ABOUT IT IN LATER NEGOTIATION. THIS SKEPTICISM SHARED BY ACTING DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, MEA (OBEBE) WHO OBJECTS TO QUOTE PROLIFERATION OF BODIES UNQUOTE CONCERNED WITH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE. TO PARAPHRASE HIM, QUOTE IF SHORTCOMINGS OF FAO NECESSITATE CREATION OF ADDITIONAL BODIES, THEN PERHAPS BEFORE SETTING THEM UP WE SHOULD EXAMINE DEFECTS OF FAO, TO DETERMINE WHY IT HAS FAILED UNQUOTE.

4. FMG PERCEIVES WFC IN POLITICAL TERMS AND THIS IS REFLECTED IN HIGH-LEVEL RANK OF PLANNED DELEGATION. WE ARE TOLD THAT IT WILL INCLUDE COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE DR. J.O.J. OKEZIE, AGRICULTURE PERMSEC DR. BUKAR SHAIB, DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE MR. B.S. OLORUNTOBA, NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO ROME A.A. HAASTRUP, NIGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO FAO DR. O. OJEHUMON, AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM MIN OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND MEA, AS YET UNNAMED.
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